

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1.-28. (Cancelled).

29. (New) A computer-aided design (CAD) system comprising:

a computer;

a display device that is directed by the computer to display an image of a dental restoration body, the dental restoration body including a plurality of dentally specific indicia;

an input device that enables a user to input a command to the computer to select a portion of the image to be modified, the selected portion being defined by at least one of the plurality of dentally specific indicia; and

at least one design tool that enables the user to modify the selected portion in any of a plurality of directions.

30. (New) A CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of dentally specific indicia comprise a plurality of dentally specific lines.

31. (New) A CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of dentally specific indicia comprise a plurality of dentally specific points.

32. (New) A CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of dentally specific indicia comprise a plurality of dentally specific lines and a plurality of dentally specific points.

33. (New) A CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the selection is made by selecting at least one of the plurality of dentally specific indicia.

34. (New) A CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the selection is made by selecting a region between at least two of the plurality of dentally specific indicia.

35. (New) A CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the image of the dental restoration body further includes a preparation border.

36. (New) A CAD system according to claim 35, wherein the selection is made by selecting a region between the preparation border and at least one of the plurality of dentally specific indicia.

37. (New) A CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of dentally specific indicia may include any of an equator, a marginal crest, a cusp and a fissure.

38. (New) A CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the computer directs the display device to display a plurality of symbols, each of the plurality of symbols representing a design tool.

39. (New) An imaging processing method comprising the steps of:
providing an image of a dental restoration body, the image of the dental restoration body including a plurality of dentally specific indicia;
selecting a portion of the image to be modified, the selected portion being defined by at least one of the plurality of dentally specific indicia; and
modifying the selected portion with a design tool, the design tool enabling the selected portion to be modified in any of a plurality of directions.

40. (New) An image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the plurality of dentally specific indicia comprise a plurality of dentally specific lines.

41. (New) An image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the plurality of dentally specific indicia comprise a plurality of dentally specific points.

42. (New) An image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the plurality of dentally specific indicia comprise a plurality of dentally specific lines and a plurality of dentally specific points.

43. (New) An image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the selection is made by selecting at least one of the plurality of dentally specific indicia.

44. (New) An image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the selection is made by selecting a region between at least two of the plurality of dentally specific indicia.

45. (New) An image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the image of the dental restoration body further includes a preparation border.

46. (New) An image processing method according to claim 45, wherein the selection is made by selecting a region between the preparation border and at least one of the plurality of dentally specific indicia.

47. (New) An image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the plurality of dentally specific indicia may include any of an equator, a marginal crest, a cusp and a fissure.

48. (New) A computer-aided design (CAD) system comprising:
means for displaying an image of a dental restoration body, the dental restoration body including a plurality of dentally specific indicia;

means for selecting a portion of the image to be modified, the selected portion being defined by at least one of the plurality of dentally specific indicia; and

means for modifying the selected portion in any of a plurality of directions.